

Landscape Architects Technical Committee

Spring 2000

Volume 1

Issue 4

...A look back to help guide the future...



In the first of what is intended to be a continuing column of the newsletter, I want to take this opportunity to help set the stage for what the Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) anticipates is in store for the rest of 2000 by providing a look back over this past year's activities. The principle intention is to help keep you informed of LATC actions and invite your continued participation in providing input to tasks and projects that benefit the regulation of landscape architecture in California.

We are pleased with the organizational structure of the LATC and feel that it is benefiting both the profession and the public we serve. We receive tremendous support from the California Architects

Board (CAB) and are finding that we operate more effectively and efficiently than ever before. This is due to the quality of staff, the dedication of Committee members and support from the profession.

During 1999, the LATC met four times. The results of these activities are summarized below.

Legislation

- Assembly Bill 1678 was signed into law effective January 1, 2000. This bill updated and simplified the required elements in a written contract between a landscape architect and client.

Rules of Professional Conduct Regulations

- In May 1999, "Rules of Professional Conduct" were adopted covering issues of competence, full disclosure, informed consent, conflict of interest, and copyright infringement.

Examination Fee Schedule

- A regulatory change to the examination fee schedule took effect in February 1999 and was implemented for the June 1999 Licensing Examination. The fee change, which allows candidates to pay for only the examination sections taken along with a \$35 application fee, decreased costs for most candidates.

Communications

- The Candidate Handbook - "A Guide to Landscape Architectural Licensing in California" was published.

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Upcoming Events

May 8, 2000	Public Hearing For Proposed Regulatory Change-Disciplinary Guidelines	Sacramento
May 19, 2000	LATC Meeting	Sacramento
June 12, 13, 14, 2000	Landscape Architect Registration Examination	Burlingame and Riverside

Key Issues

Through the efforts of the LATC and staff and with full support from the CAB, meaningful progress has been made in addressing some of the issues identified as key to effective regulation of landscape architectural practice in California. These include:

- Establishing of standards and programs essential for public protection
- Creating a regulatory system that effectively carries out the LATC's Mission
- Developing awareness of the LATC and the profession it regulates

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LATC Staff

Members of the LATC staff are available to answer any questions you may have regarding the Landscape Architects Program. Their names and areas of responsibility are listed below. If you wish to contact a staff member, you may do so by telephoning (916) 445-4954 or by e-mailing them at the address listed under each name.

Gretchen Kjose
Program Manager
Gretchen_Kjose@dca.ca.gov

- Manager of all elements of the Landscape Architects Program
- Administrative support to the LATC
- Technical program support to the California Architects Board

Hilary Prentiss
Enforcement Coordinator
Hilary_Prentiss@dca.ca.gov

- Change in the regulations governing landscape architecture
- Consumer complaints
- Committee meetings
- Newsletter

Gary Johnson
Examination Coordinator
Gary_L_Johnson@dca.ca.gov

- Exam content
- Exam scheduling
- Reciprocity exam
- Web site maintenance
- Education and training requirements
- Requests for exam materials

Mary Anderson
Licensing Coordinator
Mary_Anderson@dca.ca.gov

- Original licenses
- License renewals
- Delinquent licenses
- Temporary certificates
- Address changes
- LATC mailing list

A NEW NAME FOR THE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS

As of January 1, 2000, the California Architects Board is now the official name of the former California Board of Architectural Examiners. The change was enacted through language contained in Assembly Bill 1678, Chapter 982, Statutes of 1999. The new name was selected to better reflect the broader role of the Board in protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public. All activities and functions of the Board will remain the same; the change is in the name only.

Along with the name change, electronic addresses have also been changed. The Board's website can now be found at www.cab.ca.gov. The new e-mail address is cab@dca.ca.gov. All phone numbers and the mailing address remain the same.

Examination News

California Supplemental Examination

In June 1998, the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) administered a new version of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E.) based on a nationwide occupational analysis conducted in 1997. The licensing examination tests for knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) identified in the occupational analysis as being critical to the practice of landscape architecture as they pertain to public health, safety and welfare issues.

Some states, including California, have a separate examination which tests for KSAs unique to the particular state. The LATC, in conjunction with the Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Examination Resources, is revising the California Supplemental Examination to test for those KSAs deemed essential to safe practice in California while avoiding duplicity with areas already covered on the L.A.R.E. Because of the updated national exam, the scope of the new California Supplemental Examination will be narrowly focused on only those public protection areas not covered on the national exam.

The examination will be a take-home exam, given after a candidate passes the L.A.R.E. and before licensure. For those seeking reciprocity, the examination will be available as soon as eligibility is established. The LATC anticipates that the new examination will be equally as or more effective in testing for critical areas of practice in California, less costly to develop and administer, and will speed up the licensing process for reciprocity candidates. On a long-term basis, the LATC is developing innovative ways to keep its licensees aware of public protection and California practice issues to enhance the profession.

California Examination Results

One hundred thirty candidates participated in the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E.) held in Riverside, California on December 6–7, 1999. Of those, 31 became eligible for licensure. Nine candidates sought reciprocity with seven being successful in passing the California section of the exam.

Listed below are the results for each section administered.

Section	Section Format*	# of Candidates	# Passed	# Failed
C - Planning and Site Design	G	90	25 (28%)	65 (72%)
E - Grading, Drainage & Storm Water Management	G	109	64 (59%)	45 (41%)
L.A.R.E. Totals		199	89 (45%)	110 (55%)
California Section Totals	MC	9	7 (79%)	2 (21%)
*MC – Multiple Choice		G – Graphic		

Technical Expert Recruitment

Consumer complaints against landscape architects are investigated by the LATC. Some cases require the opinion of a technical expert to determine whether the landscape architect's action(s) deviated from accepted standards of practice. In an effort to update its database of qualified experts, the LATC is asking interested parties to apply by sending in a resumé/vitae.

Technical experts must:

- Have a current, valid landscape architect license;
- Have a minimum of five years of professional landscape architectural experience;
- Have knowledge of the standards of practice for landscape architects;
- Be able to interpret the Landscape Architects Practice Act and review and understand investigative documents;
- Be able to write clear, concise, succinct and organized expert opinions; and,
- Be available to testify at administrative and criminal hearings.

Resumés/vitae may be sent to:

Landscape Architects Technical Committee, ATTN: Hilary Prentiss
400 R Street, Suite 4000, Sacramento, CA 95814

Telephone inquiries should be directed to Ms. Prentiss at (916) 445-6573.

SETTLEMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENT

The Landscape Architects Practice Act requires licensees and/or companies providing liability insurance to license holders to report settlements or arbitration awards in excess of \$5,000. These settlements, which usually involve damages allegedly caused by a licensee's fraud, deceit, negligence, or incompetence, are required to be reported to the LATC within 30 days of finalization of the settlement. Failure to comply with this requirement is punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000. Intentional failure to comply with this regulatory requirement or impeding another person from complying with this requirement is considered a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$100,000.

ASLA, CELA and CLARB Forming Coalition

Landscape Architecture Groups Joining Forces on Licensure

The three largest groups involved with the profession of landscape architecture have agreed to form a new coalition dedicated to preserving, expanding and upgrading licensure. This marks a historic first in collaboration between the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA), and the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB). Until now, these national organizations have primarily focused on assisting local efforts by providing testimony, fundraising and holding discussions with related organizations to cultivate support for the profession. Once formed, the coalition will undertake a united effort to provide the necessary support for local licensure battles. Other possible projects the coalition may undertake include creating a legal basis for defining the appropriate scope of work for landscape architecture and creating a database of reports, case studies and model testimonies. For more information regarding the newly formed coalition, visit www.asla.org, www.cela.org, or www.clarb.org on the internet.

Consumer Guides Here!



Three new Consumer Guides are now available to the public. The Guides offer important information about the services provided by landscape architects, contract requirements, tips on selecting landscape professionals, and how to file a complaint in the event something goes wrong. These booklets focus on residential, private development and public sector projects. The Guides are also available on the LATC website.

Updated Recycled Content Product Database Now Online

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) has recently completed an upgrade of its Recycled Content Products (RCPs) Database to make it more user friendly and to add new product listings. The RCP Database has information on RCPs as well as manufacturers, distributors, reproducers, mills and converters who procure or produce these products, or the recycled materials needed to make them. The quantity and variety of recycled content products grows daily. The RCP Database does not include all recycled content products that are available or all of the distributors of the products listed, but it's a good starting place. Searches of the over 10,000 materials, products and businesses can be done by product type, location and/or percentage of recycled content.

If you are a landscape architect, we encourage you to review your procurement specifications to ensure that you remove any outdated, unnecessary requirements that might prevent you from using recycled content products. For instance, you should consider using urban compost and mulch for use as a slow release fertilizer, soil amendment, and turf top-dressing. In addition, you should consider the use of recycled content materials, such as wood chips, for mulch. And finally, as shown above, there are a variety of recycled content products that can be incorporated into landscape architect projects including outdoor furniture, recycling bins and containers, signage, pavers, decking, edging, and fencing.

The Board encourages you to keep the following questions in mind when considering your purchases:

Is the product readily available?

Let your suppliers know that you are

the many recycled content products available.

The RCP Database was created by the California Integrated Waste Management Board using data from several

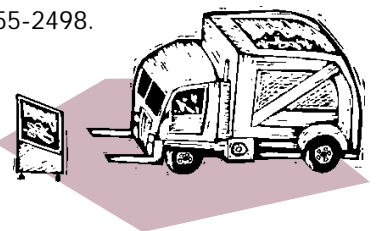
sources including, but not limited to, The Harris Directory of Recycled Content Building Materials, prepared by B.J. Harris, Inc.; and The Official Recycled Products Guide, prepared by Recycling Data Management Corporation. For further information on these sources, you may contact the companies directly by calling or writing:

B.J. Harris, Inc.
P.O. Box 2024
Candler, NC 28715-2020
Phone: (888) 844-0337
Recycling Data
Management Corporation
P.O. Box 577
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
Phone: (800) 267-0707

CIWMB will continue to research additional

manufacturers and products to list on the RCP Database.

In addition, if you know of a company that offers recycled content products that they might like to list in this database, please have them contact us with their information. You can contact the recycled content product team by sending us an e-mail directly at rcp@ciwmb.ca.gov or by calling the Recycled Content Product Coordinator Linda Hennessy (916) 255-2498.



RCP Database

The Database currently lists 6,500 products and 3,000 companies under 13 product classifications. Selected classifications and key product sub-categories that landscape architects should be aware of are listed below.



Construction:

Concrete/asphalt
Paint
Tile

Park and Recreation:

Furniture
Plastic fencing
Playground surface
Running tracks

Special Use:

Mats
Recycling containers
Signage
Basins

Agriculture, Husbandry, Landscape and Garden:

Compost and mulch
Compost bins
Decking
Edging
Erosion control
Fencing, posts, rails
Hoses
Pavers
Soil conditioners
Outdoor furniture
Tree grates, guards and stakes
Water storage

interested in purchasing products with recycled content. Your suppliers will take notice and, wanting to keep your business, will look for manufacturers that will be able to meet your specifications.

Is the product cost-competitive?

There are many recycled content products currently on the market that are cost-competitive. In other cases it is not as simple as comparing up-front costs. Some RCPs have lower maintenance and replacement costs than their virgin counterparts. To accurately compare these, you must consider the life cycle costs of both and then make your decision accordingly.

We hope this RCP Database will increase your interest and knowledge of

LANDSCAPING TO REDUCE FIRE HAZARD

The East Bay Municipal Utility District publishes a brochure that provides information about planting and landscaping practices that can reduce fire hazards. The brochure is intended to be a guide for residents and landscape professionals in fire-prone areas of the San Francisco Bay Area. However, it contains guidelines that are applicable to fire-prone areas throughout California. Topics discussed include creating fuel clearance breaks, using non-flammable building materials, giving consideration to topography, and selecting plants with low fuel volume. It also contains lists of the following:

- Fire resistant plants and highly flammable plants;
- Locations of firescape demonstration garden sites; and
- A reference list of other sources of information related to reducing fire hazards.

The LATC has sent a copy of this brochure to each California landscape architect. Additional brochures may be purchased by contacting the East Bay Municipal Utility District at the following address:

East Bay Municipal Utility District
Water Conservation Division
P.O. Box 24055, MS 48
Oakland, CA 94923-1055
Phone: (510) 287-0590 Internet: www.ebmud.com



A look back...

Continued from Page 1

- Three Consumer Guides for selecting a landscape architect that cover the three distinct perspectives of residential, private and public sector practice were developed and sent to each California landscape architect.

- The LATC first developed its Web page in late 1998. During 1999, it was continuously updated and now includes the Landscape Architects Practice Act with all statutory/regulatory changes; examination guidelines and applications; meeting schedules; the newsletter; and e-mail capability.

Strategic Plan

- In December 1999, the LATC contracted with the firm of Moore, Icaofano and Goltsman, Inc. to facilitate updates to the strategic plan during fiscal years 1999/00 and 2000/01. This will enable the LATC to better focus its efforts.

What's Ahead

The LATC continues to define specific action items and tasks as a part of refining the goals it first adopted in 1998. Some of the items and areas already in progress or planned for the balance of the year include - further review and improvement of the California Supplemental

licensing examination; development and distribution of additional publications that further identify health, safety and welfare issues related to practice; joining with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) in providing speakers to address the licensing process in California; refining procedures and processes for public protection; and conducting market condition assessments to help inform and guide regulatory actions in California.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to consult the LATC Web page at <http://www.latc.dca.ca.gov/> for additional updates on LATC activities throughout the year, as well as to provide input. Your comments and suggestions are encouraged.

As additional information is received from licensees, candidates, students, educators, building officials, allied professionals, legislators, and members of the public about matters affecting the regulation landscape architecture, other tasks and actions will undoubtedly help shape the remainder of the year.

Let Us Hear from You

We're interested in hearing from you. We'd like you to share your thoughts and opinions with us, your fellow landscape architects and candidates for licensure. You can send your comments to:

Landscape Architects
Technical Committee,
400 R Street, Suite 4000,
Sacramento, CA 95814-6238.

Fax: 916 324-2333

E-mail: latc@dca.ca.gov

LATC Meeting

Friday, May 19,
2000

9 a.m. — 5 p.m.

400 R Street

in the
Director's
Conference
Room



**Landscape Architects
Technical Committee
Members**

Richard Zweifel, Chair
Sandra J. Gonzalez,
Vice-Chair
Linda Gates
Dennis Otsuji
David Tatsumi

Newly Licensed Individuals

In 1999, the following individuals were licensed through reciprocity or successful completion of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E.):

Azuma, Chiye
Baur, Grayson
Bliss, Michael
Cable, Daniel
Caldwell, Nancy
Campbell, Lyle
Cannon, Michael
Clough, Bethany
D'Angelo, Monica
Emerson, David
Erez, Renee
Fish, Linda
Frink, Rita
Goodkind, Lane
Gourley, Elizabeth

Hook, Jori
Hung, Ying-Yu
Hunter, Catherine
Jackson, James
Kaplan, Joan
Kirsh, Kathleen
Krolewski, Karen
Laurentowski, Jeremy
Lesser, Lawrence
McGlade, Dennis
McLean, Nancy
Morris, Paul
Munnerlyn, Charles
Murray, Kenneth
Nishizawa, William

Rabb, Debra
Radley, Mary
Rothenberger, Charles
Sanders, Lucinda
Sanhamel, Steven
Scuitto, Christopher
Walter, Matson
Wohlfarth, Jeff
Worth, Jennifer
Yadav, Neelu
Yee, Francis
Yip, Connie
Yurus, Matthew

Landscape Architects Technical Committee

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Sacramento, CA 95814

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Sacramento, CA
